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Mass.

IN

1850.

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199 Main Street.

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HISTORICAL SKETCH. *

On the 15th of May, 1667, Capt. Daniel Gookin, Capt. Edward Johnson, Mr. Samuel Andrew, and Andrew Belchar, senior, were empowered by the General Court, as a Committee, "to take an exact view" of the territory now composing the city of Worcester, "as soon as conveniently they can, to make true report whether the place be capable to make a village, and what number of families, they conceive, may be there accommodated. And if they find it fit for a plantation, then to offer some meet expedient how the same may be settled and improved for the public good."

The result of their investigations may be seen in the following extracts from their report, presented Oct. 20, 1668:

"We have, according to the Court's order, bearing date 15th May, 1667, viewed the place therein mentioned, and find it to be about twelve miles westward from Marlborough, near the road to Springfield, and that it contains a tract of very good chestnut tree land; a large quantity: but the meadow we find not so much; because a very considerable quantity of meadow and upland,

* We are indebted to Lincoln's History of Worcester, for nearly the entire material of the following sketch, most of which is in the language of that able and interesting work,—copied by the polite permission of Hon. John W. Lincoln.

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about five thousand acres, is laid out unto particular persons, and confirmed by this Court, as we are informed, which falls within this tract of land; . . . . but, all this notwithstanding, we conceive there may be enough meadow for a small plantation, or town, of about thirty families: and if those farms be annexed to it, it may supply about sixty families. Therefore, we conceive it expedient, that the honored Court will be pleased to reserve it for a town, being conveniently situated, and well watered with ponds and brooks, and lying near midway between Boston and Springfield, about one day's journey from either: and, for the settling thereof we do offer unto the Court that which follows, viz:

That there be a meet proportion of land granted and laid out for a town, in the best form the place will bear, about the contents of eight miles square:

That a prudent and able Committee be appointed and empowered to lay it out; to admit inhabitants, and order the affairs of the place, in forming the town, granting lots, and directing and ordering all matters of a prudential nature, until the place be settled with a sufficient number of inhabitants and persons of discretion, able to order the affairs thereof, in the judgment of the Court:

That due care be taken by the said Committee, that a good minister of God's word be placed there, as soon as may be: that such people as may be there planted may not live like lambs in a *large* place."

This report was approved and accepted, its recommendations confirmed, and Capt. Daniel Gookin, Capt.

Thomas Prentice, Mr. Daniel Henchman, and Lt. Richard Beers, appointed to carry them into execution.

At the distance of more than a century and a half, when we see the hills and valleys of the '*very good chestnut tree land*' explored by the Committee, thickly dotted with the homes of the husbandman and the villages of the manufacturer, traversed by canal and railway, and supporting a dense population, their estimate of the capacity of the tract, eight miles square, to maintain thirty or sixty families, furnishes strong contrast between their humble anticipations and our overflowing prosperity.

In 1673 or '74, the first settlement was commenced, a tract of land eight miles square having been purchased of the Indians, for 'twelve pounds lawful money of New England.' During King Philip's War, in 1675, the town was deserted, and afterwards burnt by the Indians. In 1684, the second settlement was commenced, and the name of Worcester adopted; but after a few years the danger from the Indians caused a second abandonment.

In 1713 the third and permanent settlement was commenced by Jonas Rice and his family, whose residence was on Sagatabscot hill, near the present residence of Mr. L. D. Ward, on Winthrop street.

The first male child born in Worcester, Nov. 7, 1714, was Adonijah, son of Jonas Rice. On arriving to manhood, year after year, his name is entered on the rolls of the provincial troops during the French wars: after each summer campaign was finished, he returned to his home, and the quiet of domestic and agricultural life.

The second settler appears from the records to have been Gershom Rice, who came in 1715, to join his brother Jonas, the hardy pioneer of population maintaining his post for nearly two years unsupported by assistance and uncheered by associates.

The first female born in Worcester was a child of Thomas Haggat, whose house was near Adams square.

A path along Summer street went to the first burial place, situated north of the junction of Thomas street. A beautiful grove of oaks waved over the graves of the forefathers of the hamlet, emblems of the sturdy characters and hardy virtues of those whose narrow beds they shaded. In the recollection of many living inhabitants, little piles of stone and mouldering heaps of turf marked the last homes of the early settlers. The hillocks and the trees have disappeared in the progress of improvement, and the cemetery is no longer distinguishable from the green spots unhallowed by the rest of the dead. *

The house of Gershom Rice was the place where meetings for religious worship were first held. A building was soon erected for devotional exercises on Green street, north of the union of Franklin street, where the inhabitants assembled on the Sabbath, until a more spacious meeting house was reared, in 1719, on the site of the old south church.

There were in Worcester in 1718, if the evidence of the proprietary records is to be credited, fifty-eight dwell-

* This spot is enclosed within the play ground of the Brick School House, on Thomas and Summer streets.

ing houses. Tradition says they were humble edifices, principally of logs, one story high, with ample stone chimneys. Some were furnished with windows of diamond glass, where the resources of the proprietor afforded means for procuring such luxury; the light was admitted in many, through the dim transparency of oiled paper. It is hardly necessary to add, that all have long since sunk in decay, or been removed to give place to the more splendid habitations of modern times.

Worcester, probably, contained at this period, about two hundred souls.

In 1722 the town was incorporated. On the 28th of September of that year the inhabitants convened in their first town meeting, when Jonas Rice was chosen Town Clerk, Nathaniel Moore, Nathaniel Jones, Benjamin Flagg, Jonas Rice, and John Gray, Selectmen; Daniel Heywood, Treasurer.

The act erecting the County of Worcester, passed April 2, 1731, to take effect from the 10th of July following. . . . The location of the shire town of the new county occasioned much debate and diversity of opinion. For many years, Sutton, Lancaster, Mendon, and Brookfield, stood higher in rank, graduated on population and valuation, than Worcester. The central position of the latter town, gave it advantage over its competitors for the honor of becoming the capital. . . . . The first Court of Probate was held in the meeting house, July 13, 1731, and the Common Pleas and General Sessions of the Peace 10th of August following, by the Hon. John

Chandler, then of Woodstock, Chief Justice of both tribunals. A sermon was preached on the occasion by the Rev. John Prentice of Lancaster. The Superior Court of Judicature was held on the 22d of September. . . . One term of the Superior Court was held annually in October. The Inferior Court had its sittings in May, August, November and February. The General Sessions of the Peace was composed of all the justices within the county, who commonly attended and decided the matters presented for adjudication by vote.*

When public festivals were few, and anniversaries unfrequent, the terms of court were the great holidays of the county; and its population assembled in Worcester, as on a general exchange, for the transaction of business, or pursuit of amusement in the rude sports of the period. The judicial proceedings, now forsaken, except by parties, witnesses and officers, were generally attended by a multitude who thronged the streets. Wrestling, fighting, and horse-racing were common exercises. The stocks, pillory, and whipping-post crowned the summit of Court hill, then sloping with steep declivity to the highway, and partially covered with bushes. Frequent exhibitions of discipline attracted crowds of spectators.

In 1812 President Dwight gave the following description, which has not yet ceased to be correct: "The

* Gen. Ruggles, the Chief Justice, in stern derision of the constitution of this Court, on one occasion, reprimanded a dog who had taken his seat beside his master, for appearing on the bench before he had been qualified as a Justice of the Peace, and directed him to go and be sworn before he came to vote there.

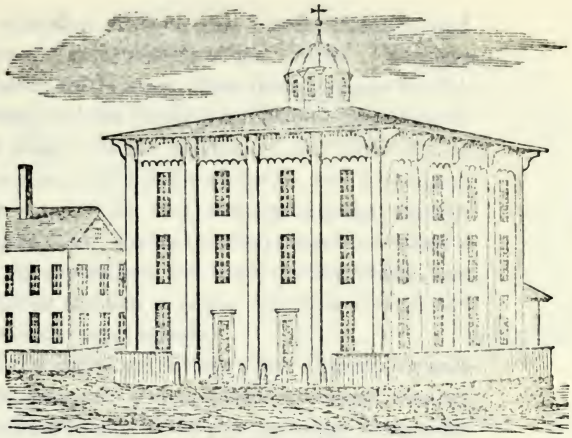
houses are generally well built; frequently handsome; and very rarely small, old or unrepaired. Few towns in New England exhibit so uniform an appearance of neatness and taste, or contain so great a proportion of good buildings, and so small a proportion of those which are indifferent, as Worcester."

March 18, 1848, the citizens of Worcester, by a vote of 1026 to 487, accepted the city charter, which was granted by the Legislature of the State, February 29, of the same year.

EDUCATION.

Among the earliest acts of the founders of Worcester, was the establishment of Common Schools. By vote of the town, April 4, 1726, Mr. Jonas Rice, the first settler, was appointed the first School Teacher. In 1731, five School districts were formed, and the Selectmen instructed "to procure a suitable number of school dames, not exceeding five, for the teaching of small children to read, to be placed in the several parts, as may be most convenient, and these gentlewomen to be paid such sum, by the head, as they may agree." The terror of the law, in September following, produced a vote, "to maintain a free school for a year, and to be a moving school into the several quarters." In August, 1732, Mr. Richard Rogers was engaged as teacher, and continued in that relation about eight years.

In 1740, after long deliberation, the first school house



Ash Street School House.

was erected, "between the Court house and bridge, below the fulling mill," or near the middle of the present way in front of Mrs. Salisbury's residence. It was 24 by 16 feet, with 7 feet posts, and was in use till after the close of the revolution.

In 1800 ten school houses were built in the several districts, at a cost of from $202 to $270 each, some of which are still in use.

Among the masters who have been employed here were some who have been since highly distinguished in the various walks of life. One of them was JOHN ADAMS, the second president of the United States.

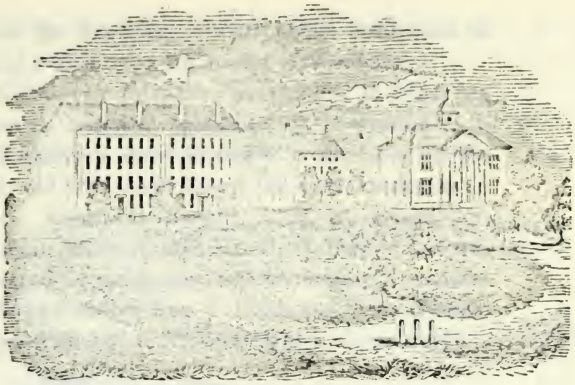
There are at the present time, twenty permanent schools in the Centre District, which are kept the year round,

with the exception of about seven weeks vacation, and are open to all the inhabitants of the district. Nine are Infant Schools, six Primary, three Grammar, one for Colored children, and the Classical and English High School. The latter is open for the children of the whole city, as soon as they are qualified for admission, and is designed to be fully equal to the best Academies in the country. In addition to these, during the winter months a school is supported for apprentices, and three evening schools, free for all, whether children or adults, who wish to learn, and cannot attend the other schools.

Around the centre are thirteen other Districts, in each of which Summer and Winter schools are taught from six to eight or nine months in the year, according to the numbers and the wants of the scholars. It is expected that a system of *permanent* schools for all the districts will soon be established.

The appropriation for support of schools for the current year was $18,000, besides some $12,000 for building new school houses, being more than one third of the whole tax on the inhabitants of the city.

Great improvement has been made within a few years in the planning and erection of school houses, and the Ash St. School house, represented at the head of this article, is decidedly superior to any previously built in this city. It is of brick, 50 by 58 feet, three stories high, and contains in the lower story a sink room, play room, ward room and committee room; on the second floor are two Infant School rooms, each accommodating one hundred



Worcester Academy.

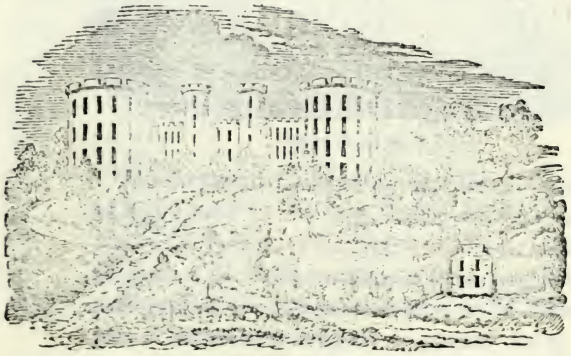
scholars, with spacious recitation rooms adjoining. The third floor is appropriated for a primary school room, with two recitation rooms, and will comfortably seat one hundred and sixty scholars. The cupola commands a delightful prospect of the city and country, and will be found well worthy of a visit by parents and others when visiting the schools. This house was completed and dedicated in the Spring of 1850, and cost about $11,000.

A new house is now being built on the Thomas street lot, designed to seat about two hundred primary and two hundred grammar scholars, of both sexes, with all the necessary recitation rooms, &c. When finished this will be a handsome and convenient building, creditable alike to the architect, Mr. E. Boyden, and to the city.

There are several private schools, of various grades, which are tolerably well supported.

Besides the foregoing, several public institutions of learning of a high order are located in Worcester.

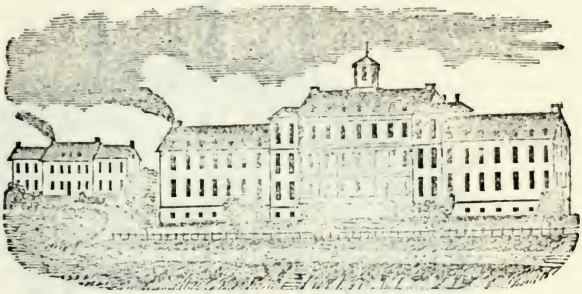
The Worcester Academy, incorporated in 1834, has since been in successful operation. It is situated on a beautiful eminence three fourths of a mile west of the city hall, and ranks high among the best Academies in the State. Charles C. Burnett, A. M. is principal, Jos. C. Wightman, assistant, and Mr. E. C. Bailey, steward. It is designed for males only, and the number of students during the year ending Aug. 7, 1850, was 176. The expenses are from $22 to $27 per term of eleven weeks.



Oread Institute.

The Oread Institute, established in 1849, affords young ladies every requisite facility for acquiring a thorough moral, scientific, classical, and ornamental education. Expenses are from $30 to $34 for 11 weeks. It is located a short distance from the Worcester Academy, on

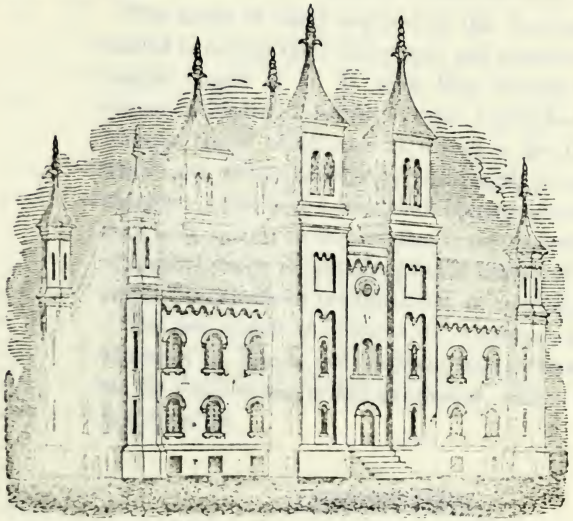
the opposite side of Main street. Eli Thayer, A. M. is principal; Miss F. H. Clark, governess and teacher of English branches; Miss Cornelia Brigham, assistant; Miss R. S. Capron, teacher of music; Mr. H. Woodward, teacher of drawing and painting; Mons. Mailly, (a native of France,) teacher of French.



College of the Holy Cross.

The CATHOLIC COLLEGE OF THE HOLY CROSS, founded and placed by the late Bishop Fenwick under the care of the Fathers of the Society of Jesus, is beautifully situated on the Northern slope of Pakachoag hill, about a mile south of the village, on a farm of 96 acres. 'The plan of education is designed to prepare young men for an ecclesiastical, professional, or commercial state of life; and accordingly embraces three distinct courses of study.' 'The religious and moral instruction of all is attended to with watchful and tender care. Besides the usual course of catechetical instruction, public lectures are delivered on the principles, doctrines and ceremonies of the Catho-

lic Church.' Expenses $150 per year. Vacation from the last week in July to Sept. 15. Age of admission, from 8 to 14 years. It is intended exclusively for Catholics. Rev. John Early, S. J. is President, assisted by a full and able board of professors and officers.



Worcester Medical Institution.

The WORCESTER MEDICAL INSTITUTION was incorporated by the Mass. Legislature in 1850. The College building is now being erected on a fine location at the corner of Providence street and Union avenue. Calvin Newton is President; E. M. Parritt, Secretary; and Wm. Johnson, Treasurer.

FACULTY.

C. NEWTON, M. D., Professor of General and Special Pathology.
——— ———, M D, Professor of Theory and Practice.
E. M. PARRITT, M. D., Professor of Chemistry and Med. Jurisprudence.
WALTER BURNHAM, M. D., Professor of Surgery and Obstetrics.
E. H. STOCKWELL, M. D, Professor of Anatomy and Physiology.
JOSEPH BROWN, M. D., Professor of Materia Medica and Botany.

The course of study required by this Institution is intended to occupy three full years; and candidates for the regular degree of M. D. must have attended two full courses of Medical Lectures in some established Medical College, one of which must have been in this Institution. They must present satisfactory testimonials of good moral character; must have a competent literary education; and must well sustain an examination in the various branches of medical study, as contained in the course of lectures, and in the text-books recommended, or equivalents.

The next course of Lectures will commence on the first Thursday in March, and continue sixteen weeks. The fee for a full course is $60 in advance, with a matriculation fee of $3.

CHURCHES.

The first Meeting House erected in Worcester was of logs, near the present junction of Green and Franklin streets. In 1719 a house for public worship was commenced on the spot now occupied by the Old South, on the Common; which was succeeded by the present edifice in 1763. This is occupied by the first Congregational Church and Society, which has always adhered to the

faith of the Pilgrim fathers. Rev. Geo. P. Smith is the present pastor.

A company of Scotch emigrants settled in Worcester in 1719, and among them was soon organized a Presbyterian Church. Their pastor, Rev. Edward Fitzgerald, came with them from Londonderry, in Ireland, and preached for a few months, but was obliged to remove for want of proper support,—the *town* exercising the privilege it then possessed of taxing their members for the support of the minister of the first church. This was not the only wrong done them. "They commenced the erection of a meeting house on the west side of the Boston road, north of the house of Frederic W. Paine, Esq. The timbers had been raised and the building was in the progress of construction, when the inhabitants gathered tumultuously by night, and demolished the structure. Persons of consideration and respectability aided in the riotous work of violence, and the defenceless foreigners were compelled to submit to the wrong."

Many of them soon left the town and joined their brethren in other places, while some remained, whose descendants have been among our most respected inhabitants.

The second church was formed in 1785, of persons differing in their religious faith from the first church. Rev. Aaron Bancroft, D. D. was pastor more than fifty years; and was succeeded by Rev. Alonzo Hill, sometime his colleague, who still sustains the relation of pastor. The place of worship of this, the first Unitarian Society in Worcester, having been destroyed by fire in 1849, a new and

elegant edifice is now in process of construction on the same spot, on Main street, just south of the Court house.

The first Baptist Church, was organized in 1812. It owed its formation to the persevering efforts of Dea. James Wilson, for many years postmaster of Worcester. Its meeting house, built in 1836 on the spot where the first had been destroyed by fire, is located on a beautiful eminence east of and fronting on the common. Rev. Samuel B. Swaim has been pastor since 1839.

The Calvinist Society was organized in 1822, and in the following year, their meeting house was erected by the liberality of Hon. Daniel Waldo. Rev. Seth Sweetser has been their pastor since 1838.

The Roman Catholic Society (St. John's Church) was commenced in 1834. Their present house of worship on Temple street was erected in 1846. Rev. M. W. Gibson is pastor; Rev. J. Boyce, associate.

The First Methodist Episcopal Society was commenced in the winter of 1834. Their first meeting house, on Exchange street, was destroyed by fire, after which that on Park street, now occupied by them, was erected. Rev. Nelson E. Cobleigh is their pastor.

The Protestant Episcopal Church in Worcester (All Saints Church) was commenced in 1835, though not permanently established till some years later. Their house of worship on Pearl street, was opened in 1846. Pastor, Rev. Nathaniel T. Bent.

The Union Church was formed and their meeting house opened for public worship in 1836. The house is on

Front street, facing the Common. Rev. Elam Smalley, D. D. is pastor, since 1838.

The Pleasant Street Baptist Church was formed by amicable division from the First Baptist in 1841, and their convenient meeting house completed in 1844. Rev. Charles K. Colver became pastor April 14, 1850.

The Universalist Society was formed in 1841, and public worship commenced in their meeting house, corner of Main and Foster streets, in 1843. Rev. O. H. Tillotson is pastor.

The Church of the Unity was organized in 1845, and their place of worship opened for that purpose in 1846, when Rev. Edward E. Hale, their pastor, was ordained.

The Laurel Street Methodist Church was formed in 1846, and their meeting house was opened for the worship of God in 1848. Rev. F. A. Griswold is their minister.

The Salem Street Church was formed in 1847. Their large and elegant meeting house, fronting westerly on the common, was dedicated in 1849, when Rev. Geo. Bushnell was ordained as pastor.

There has been a regular meeting of Friends in Worcester, on the Sabbath, and on Thursday mornings, for many years. In 1848, a lot was obtained at the corner of Oxford and Chatham streets, and a convenient meeting house erected for their accommodation.

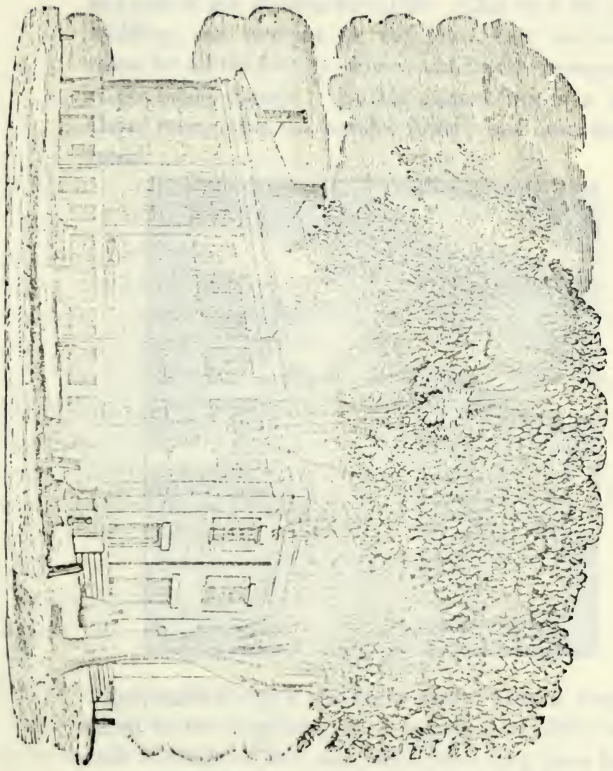
In addition to the above, public worship is regularly observed at the State Lunatic Hospital, where Rev. Geo. Allen is chaplain; at the County House; at Warren Hall,

by the believers in the Second Advent, Rev. Geo. Needham, pastor; and by one or two Societies of colored persons. Religious and pastoral services for the poor and neglected, are performed by Rev. F. LeBaron, and by Dea. Brigham, ministers at large.

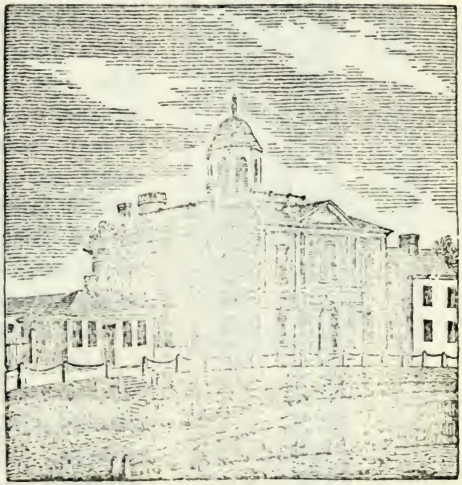
PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

The City Hall, standing near the northwest corner of the Common, is mostly used for city purposes. In the basement are four cells for the detention of prisoners previous to their examination before the Police Court, and sometimes used to shelter a homeless wanderer from exposure in the streets; an engine house; and two stores, at present used as provision stores. It has been proposed to raise the building and change this whole floor into a market, with some ten or twelve stalls. On the next floor are the rooms of both branches of the City Council, offices for the City Treasurer, Marshal and Messenger, and the Police Court Room. Above these is the large hall, 50 by 100 feet, capable of seating 1200 persons. If the change above named should be made, this hall will doubtless be much improved, and an additional place of entrance and exit provided at the east end of the building.

The other buildings belonging to the city are some 24 school houses, scattered over the city, three engine houses, and the buildings on the City Farm. This farm, situated on Lincoln and Boylston streets, contains 204 acres, besides 42 acres of woodland.



The new COUNTY COURT HOUSE, was completed in 1845, at a cost of not far from $100,000. This is a fire proof building, and contains on the lower floor convenient rooms for all the County officers, and for the preservation of the public records. On the second floor is a large Court room, with the needful library and consultation rooms.

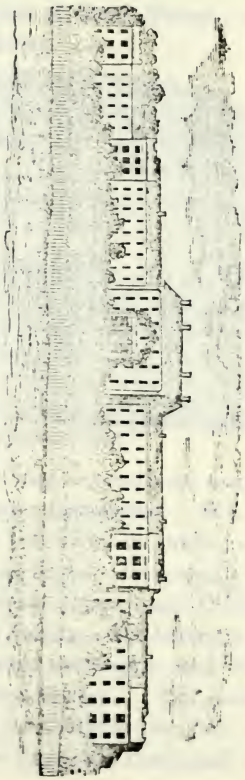


Brick Court House.

Just north of this is the BRICK COURT HOUSE, (represented in our engraving as it appeared in 1830, with small buildings on each side, which have long since been removed.) This is now chiefly used for the sessions of the Criminal Courts, and of the County Commissioners. The office of the Sheriff is in this building.

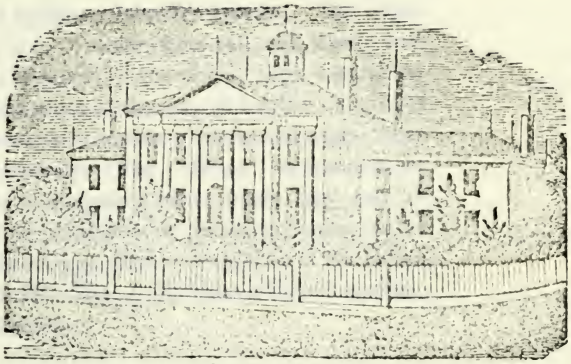
At the corner of Summer and Central streets is the COUNTY JAIL and HOUSE OF CORRECTION. It contains 43 cells, for the separate confinement of prisoners, and is provided with workshops for the employment of all who are committed for correction, and a dwelling for the keeper with his family and assistants. Mr. Rufus Carter is keeper.

Immediately south of this establishment, is that noble charity, the STATE LUNATIC HOSPITAL, a front view of which is seen in our engraving. The central building was erected in 1831, but was soon found too strait for the reception of suitable subjects. It has consequently been repeatedly enlarged, until it is capable of accommodating 450 Insane patients, with their Superintendent, physicians and numerous attendants. The present number of patients is 234 males and 229 females. A large proportion of recent cases of insanity have been cured here, while a comfortable asylum is provid-



State Lunatic Hospital.

ed for the hopelessly insane who are dependent on the public for support. Dr. Geo. Chandler is Superintendent, John R. Lee, M. D. and Merrick Bemis, Assistant Physicians; Rev. George Allen, Chaplain; Thomas Hill, Steward; Miss Elizabeth A. Reed, Matron; and Samuel Jennison, Esq., Treasurer.



Antiquarian Hall.

ANTIQUARIAN HALL may be considered a public building, though managed by a Corporation. It is located at the corner of Summer and Belmont streets, and is 104 feet long and two stories high. It is mostly filled with the extensive and valuable Library and Cabinet of the American Antiquarian Society. The library is peculiarly rich in series of American newspapers, and other works illustrative of American History. The institution has been managed on the most liberal plan; its collections have been kept open to the public freely, and have been

much frequented by strangers and scholars.' Samuel F. Haven, Esq. is Librarian.

The Orphan's Home may perhaps as well be referred to here as in any other place. It is managed by the Childrens' Friend Society, and is located on Pine street, in a comfortable house, the use of which is generously given for the purpose by Hon. John W. Lincoln. The object of the Society is to "rescue from evil and misery such children as are deprived of the care of their natural parents," and place them in the care of families where they may be so trained as to become virtuous and useful members of the community. The "Home" is therefore designed only as a temporary home, where they may be properly cared for, until suitable permanent homes can be provided. The average number of children at the Home, has been about 20. Mrs. J. M. Miles is Superintendent; Miss White, Matron.

THE COMMON.

When Worcester was first laid out for settlement, a lot of twenty acres was set apart as "a training place and school house-lot." This was reduced by subsequent encroachments, till in 1734, when a survey and plan of the ground was made by a Committee of the Proprietors, and entered in the book of the Proprietors' Records, page 201, it was found to contain only 11 acres and 140 rods, including the burial ground in the centre, and the roads across it. Portions have since been granted to individ-

uals by the town, chiefly for a mere nominal consideration, sometimes for nothing, until there remain only about eight out of the original twenty.

Within a few years, the Common has been greatly improved, its remains enclosed with a substantial fence, shade trees planted and walks laid out, until it bids fair to become an ornament to the city. The principal drawbacks at this time are the railroad track; the school house and out houses, which it is believed will not long remain there; and the grossly neglected burial ground. This ought to be immediately put in decent order, and the grave stones righted up and properly protected, or as some have proposed, the remains should be removed to some suitable place, where these relics of our most respected predecessors may be suffered to rest in peace.

The city government have in contemplation the procurement of other lots, to be laid out as public grounds, and it is to be hoped that all well-directed efforts to that end may be successful.

BURIAL GROUNDS.

The most ancient place of burial of the white settlers of Worcester, was at the corner of Summer and Thomas streets, within the enclosure of the school house. Miss Rachel Kellough, who died Dec. 15, 1717, is supposed to have been the first person buried there. After the remains of twenty-eight other persons had been interred there, the burying ground on the Common was opened,

and was the only one in use till 1795. In Lincoln's History of Worcester it is stated that this spot was opened for burials "in 1730, when Ephraim Roper, accidentally killed in hunting, was interred there." In the same year, John Young, an Irishman, aged 107 years, was buried in this spot, where his grave stone may still be seen. The Mechanic street burying ground was provided in 1795; that on Old Pine street in 1828; and that on Raccoon Plain in 1835. The Catholics have a burial place on Pleasant street, and another near Sutton lane.

In 1836 Hon. Daniel Waldo made a donation of 9 acres of land bordering on Grove street, to be laid out as a Rural Cemetery. An act of incorporation was procured, under which a Company was formed, the lands beautifully laid out, and the lots offered for sale. Most of the original lots have been purchased by our citizens, and many of them handsomely ornamented by their owners. The Cemetery has been twice enlarged by the purchase of adjoining lands, and now contains about thirty acres. It is one of the most frequented as well as pleasant places of public resort within the city.

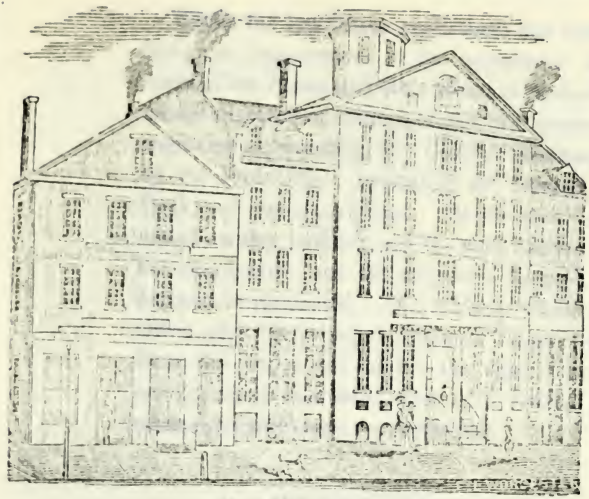
BUSINESS.

The principal business is Mechanical, including of course the manufacture of an almost infinite variety of articles for different and distant markets as well as for home consumption. It would be difficult to give any thing like an accurate account of the various branches carried on

here, or of their comparative extent and importance. Woolen, Paper, and other Machinery, Machinists' Tools, Iron and Brass Wire, various Woolen Goods, Boots and Shoes, &c. &c. have long been successfully manufactured here, and sent to all parts of the country. The Worcester Plows and other Agricultural Implements have for years been known as among the best, if not the very best in the world. Then there are Musical Instruments, Castings of all kinds, Fire Arms, Copying Presses, Screw Wrenches, Hammers, Augers, Knives and Chisels, Binders' Shears, Picture Frames, Porte Monnaies, Fancy Boxes, Fancy Cards, and almost innumerable other articles, for ornament or use, manufactured here, and standing among the best of their kinds in all the markets of the country.

Hon. Mr. Boutwell in his recent Cattle Show Address, spoke of Worcester, as combining more advantages for successful business than most other places in the State. Among these he mentioned the facts that capital and skill are for the most part united in the same persons; the *variety* of employments, which prevent any entire overthrow of business in years of depression; and the fact that the capital of the town is resident in the town.

Next in importance come the Farmers; though it is not necessary to say much about them, as their fields and their orchards, their cattle and their barns, all speak for them. A large portion of our older inhabitants, as their fathers in many cases were before them, are farmers, and there is no class more independent, or better situated for comfortable living. With a ready cash market for all



Central Exchange.

their surplus produce at their doors, they would be sadly unjust to themselves if they were not industrious and thriving.

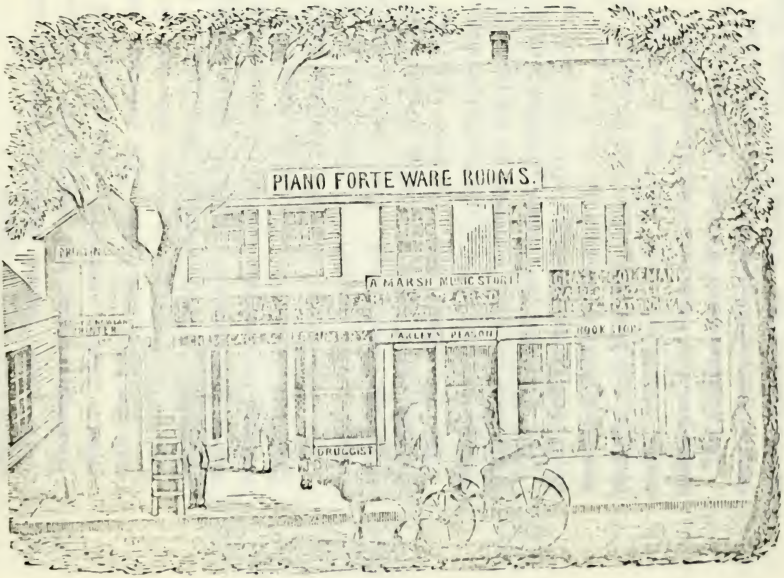
So large a class of producers of course attract traders in sufficient numbers and variety, who are always ready, for a consideration, to supply their wants, whether for the necessaries, the comforts, or the luxuries of life. And the easy and rapid communication with other parts of the country enables them to compete successfully with even the "Merchant princes" of Boston and New York, both in variety and price; so that the man who has earned his money in Worcester has no need to go abroad to spend it judiciously.

Within the last fifteen years there has been a gradual but great improvement in the appearance and conveniences of our Stores and other places of business. We are unable to speak of them in detail, but present above an engraving representing the Central Exchange, occupied by the Post Office, Institution for Savings, Worcester Bank, and numerous offices. On the next page is represented another building, not the most elegant in the city, but very central, and the site where no small amount of business is transacted. It is midway between the Post Office and the principal Railroad Depot. By looking close, the reader will observe the sign of the publisher and printer of this little work on a *retired* part. The other signs will speak for themselves.

COMMUNICATION.

Worcester is well called the "Heart of the Commonwealth," and the most constant communication with all the extremities, from Cape Cod to Berkshire, is perfectly kept up by the great system of Railroads centering here, which so well represent the arteries and veins of the animal system. Six railroads center here, connecting in every direction with others, making this *the* starting point, apparently, for every part of the country.

The *Boston and Worcester Railroad*, 44 miles long, was completed and opened for travel in 1835. Seven passenger trains passing over the road each way daily, give all needed connection with the capital or head, and


PIANO FORTE WARE ROOMS.
A MARSH MUSIC STORE
DRUGGIST

through that to the arms on either side, over the various railroads that meet at Boston.

The great *Western Railroad* leaves the above near Washington square, and passing over a distance of 156 miles to Albany, connects the other extremity of the State with the heart and head. Four passenger trains each day, enable passengers to choose their time for visiting Springfield, Albany, Hartford, New York, or anywhere else in those directions; while the immense freight trains complete the exchange between the manufactures of the Bay State and the Provisions of the great West.

The *Norwich and Worcester Railroad* forms a direct connexion with Norwich and New York, by Steamboat over Long Island Sound. Four trains a day leave for Norwich, one of them, at evening, for New York.

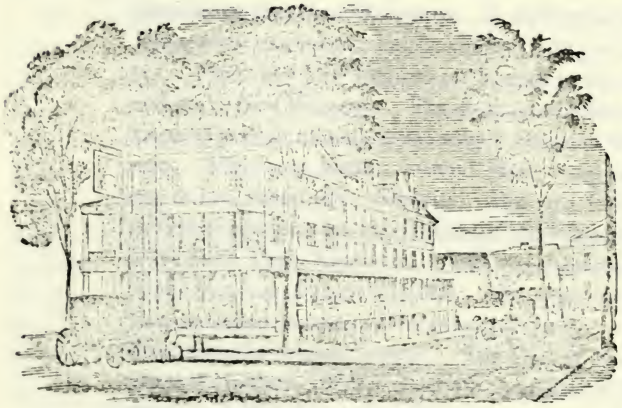
The *Providence and Worcester Railroad* is laid through the valley of the Blackstone to Providence. Three trains each day leave Worcester for the latter city.

The *Worcester and Nashua Railroad*, runs to Nashua, N. H. and by its connections with other roads opens a direct communication between the Northern parts of Massachusetts, and New Hampshire, and Vermont, and Worcester, Providence, New York, and the West. Three trains pass over the road in each direction daily.

The *Fitchburg and Worcester Railroad* leaves Fitchburg and passes through Leominster and Sterling, whence its cars pass over the Worcester and Nashua Railroad to Worcester. The cars leave Worcester three times daily in company with the trains for Nashua.

Stages complete the communication between Worcester and the neighboring towns, leaving twice a day for Millbury, Grafton, Leicester, North Oxford, Rutland, Barre, Holden, Shrewsbury, and perhaps other places.

PUBLIC HOUSES.



American Temperance House.

The American Temperance House, at the corner of Main and Foster streets, kept by Tucker & Bonney, stands at the head of the public houses of Worcester. Besides this the Worcester House, Elm, near Main, by Truesdell & Norris, the Temperance Exchange, by P. W. Wait, at the corner of Main and Market streets; the Central Hotel by Clifford & Swan, corner of Main and Exchange streets; and the Nashua House, on Lincoln

street, are good houses, where travellers and their horses will find comfortable accommodations. There are, also, several other houses, kept as hotels.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Few places are better provided with the means of extinguishing fires than Worcester. A well organized Fire Department exists here, amply supplied with good apparatus. Three powerful Engines are located in the Centre, and one at New Worcester. The Hook and Ladder apparatus is at present located in the school house on the Common. There are besides, several Hose companies, and one or two Social Fire Societies. But our best agent, subject of course to the management of the "department," is the BELL POND AQUEDUCT. This was "completed" in 1845, at a cost of about $24,000. The pipes have since been extended in many of the principal streets, to not far from twice the original length. The head of the Reservoir at the outlet is 183 feet above the Aqueduct in Thomas street, and 100 feet higher than the corner of Elm and Chestnut streets. The supply of water has been found ample for the extinguishment of fires, and for all calls thus far for domestic and mechanical purposes.

VARIOUS NOTICES.

There are five *Banks* doing business in Worcester, viz: the Worcester, Central, Quinsigamond, Citizens, and Mechanics Banks, having, together, a capital of

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$650,000. There are also, four *Mutual Fire Insurance Companies*;—the Worcester County Mutual, the Manufacturers, the Farmers and Mechanics, and the Peoples. The *State Mutual Life Assurance Company*, and the *Mechanics Life and Health Insurance Company*. Also, agencies for other Insurance Companies of various kinds.

The *Worcester County Institution for Savings* is located here, in the Central Exchange, and is a secure place of deposit, where those who wish to place their small savings on interest can do so, with the assurance that both principal and interest will be forthcoming when wanted. Amount of deposits, $1,124,000.

The *Worcester County Mechanics Association* provides a course of popular Lectures once a week during the Winter months, at a cheap rate. It has also a valuable library of some 700 volumes, accessible to the members and their families through the year. This association has held two fairs which has been entirely successful; and they will probably be hereafter held annually.

The *Worcester Lyceum* also furnishes a weekly course of Lectures in the Winter, and the use of their well selected library of about one thousand volumes through the year to all who purchase tickets.

There is still needed here a *Public Library and Reading Room*, which shall be accessible every evening through the year to our young men, and others who may wish to resort to it, either free or at such a low rate as to place it within the reach of all. Something of the kind has been

proposed, and the capitalists of Worcester cannot make an investment in a small way that will pay a better interest, in the immediate and future prosperity of the place, than to put such an institution in operation at once.

The *Worcester County Agricultural Society* holds an annual Cattle Show in Worcester, which is improved as the grand County Holiday, when all who can, make it a point to be in Worcester, not only to see the show of animals, in itself worthy of the visit, but to meet their friends and fellow citizens from all parts of the County. The exhibition of the handiwork of the wives and daughters of the farmers, renders the occasion also attractive to them.

The *Worcester County Horticultural Society* holds several exhibitions of fruits and flowers and vegetables, each year; and every year they are becoming more complete and attractive, and of course more beneficial to the community.

WALKS, RIDES AND DRIVES.*

A stranger in Worcester, who has but a short time in which to take a view of the town, may choose one of three or four eminences which will give him a birds-eye view of its position and arrangement, and of most of its public buildings, in a short walk.

A walk through CHESTNUT STREET gives such a view, including every important public building in the city.

* We are indebted for the following article to the kindness of several gentlemen, whose good taste will need no voucher, other than to follow them in any or all of the excursions here laid down.

Union Hill, which may be ascended by Providence street or Vernon street, gives a view, probably, of most buildings in the village. A large lithograph, poorly drawn, from this point, was published some years ago. Here is the site of the Medical College; [see page 15.] Wachusett may be seen in the distance.

Mt. Vernon Square, east of Lincoln street gives the most picturesque view of the town.

Should the stranger be desirous of obtaining a wider prospect, at the same time with a bird's eye view of the city, he will find a pleasant occupation for an afternoon in a stroll over Chandler Hill. This hill, so called from the family of that name, highly distinguished in our ante-revolutionary annals, lies to the northeast of the centre of the city. Starting from the City Hall, he should take Main street to Thomas, pass through Thomas and Prospect, and from the upper extremity of the latter he will see the summit of the hill rising above him, to be attained without difficulty. There he will see the greater part of the city stretched out before him, the northern, western, and south-eastern portions, however, being hidden by the hills. The large building, so conspicuous beneath him, is the Hospital, [see page 23.] and this is the only point from which an adequate idea can be obtained of its immense size. On the eastern side he will see, immediately below him, Bell Pond, the natural reservoir, whose water has been introduced into the city, [see p. 34,] —and in the east he will see the ridge beyond Quinsigamond Pond, with Shrewsbury crowning its summit to the

northeast, and Grafton dotting its sides to the southeast. To the north rises Millstone Hill, between which and Chandler Hill is Belmont street, the old Boston turnpike, by which we may return to the city.

The summit of Chandler Hill is 748.37 feet above tide water. The level of the Boston Railroad at its terminus in this city is 470.38 feet above the tide at Boston.

Mount Pakachoag, called Mount St. James by the Jesuit gentlemen who now own a site upon it, commands another fine view. The spot is interesting, as affording a visit to the only Catholic college in New England, [see page 14] and as the site of the first settlement in the town. This was the settlement of "praying Indians," converts of the devoted John Eliot. These were Nipmucks. Their settlement is described thus by Gookin, in his Historical Account of the Indians. "This village lyeth about three miles south from the new road that leadeth from Boston to Connecticut; about eighteen miles, west southerly, from Marlborough; and from Boston about forty-four miles. It consists of about twenty families, and hath about one hundred souls therein. This town is seated upon a fertile hill, and is denominated from a delicate spring of water that is there." They were visited by the Apostle Eliot, and Gookin, his "superintendent" of Indians, in 1674. This settlement probably extended into Auburn.

Pakachoag Hill is worth farther examination than a simple visit to the college. And those persons wishing to see as much as possible in a short time cannot do bet-

ter than to take the drive to Pakachoag. This name is given not only to the hill, but to a small but very beautiful pond about two and a half miles from Worcester. The stranger will take the road leading to the College of the Holy Cross; leaving this on his left hand, passing along Southbridge street, at the foot of the hill. At the distance of little more than a mile, we leave this road, which is the Auburn road, and take the first left hand road after College street, not so much travelled. A drive of half a mile brings us to the top of a steep hill, where a beautful view of Pakachoag pond and the surrounding country presents itself. This drive is a short and pleasant one, and by continuing farther on a few rods, taking a left hand road, those fond of exercise will find their wants satisfied, on their way home,—passing through the Upland street of our map. An easier return is by College street.

The Hermitage. One of the most beautiful and retired spots around Worcester is "the Hermitage," a tiny pond lying among the woods at the foot of the west side of Millstone Hill. To one who loves quiet beauty without grandeur or extent of scenery, we could recommend it above all other places as a delightful walk. Should he accept our recommendation, he will take Lincoln street and following it about half a mile he will reach a slight rock cut on the edge of a grove, and as soon as he has passed through this cut he will see a "pair of bars" on the upper or right hand side of the road. Passing through these he will enter a road in the grove of oaks. Having

mounted to the brow of the hill by a slight divergence from his road towards the right to the edge of the wood, he will obtain a fine view of the city, except its extreme southeastern and western portions; and from no other point does the stranger so well realize how it is nestled down among the hills. The College of the Holy Cross rises in relief on the surface of Pakachoag to the south, and on the southeast Chandler hill cuts off his view. To the southwest are seen the Worcester Academy, and near by it the Oread Institute, with its towers and battlements. Mount Vernon Square, spoken of above [page 37], is just below him.

Resuming his road and following it to the east, keeping to the left at the first fork, and the right at the second, after a pleasant walk through the woods, he will suddenly see beneath him through trees "the hermitage;" and descending to its level, and looking up the little sheet of water from its lower end, he cannot but be charmed by its beauty. The Hermit has never been seen by visitors in the memory of the oldest inhabitant. He always retires on the slightest sound of approaching footsteps. From this spot our pedestrian may return: following the brook down, passing Mr. Hathaway's machine brick works, he will come to where it is crossed by Catherine street, and turning to the right, crossing the hill, will find himself on Lincoln street again.

STILL ANOTHER FINE VIEW of the town and surrounding scenery from another point of view, easily visited in walking, is to be had from the high hill to the west of the

Court house. It may be reached by Highland street, Salisbury street, or the Jo Bill road. The last is the most retired and pleasantest route. Taking this at its junction with Salisbury street, whoever follows it about three quarters of a mile over three smaller hills, will find himself at the termination of the lane. This lane possesses great interest to the lover of local history, it being part of the old County road, and on the side hill, near its western end are still to be seen relics of the earliest settlers of Worcester. On the left side as we descend, immediately adjacent to the fence, are two old cellars now filled with a growth of trees and brush, and across the road, in the hollow, are the springs from which these pioneers drank, and an old apple-tree, the sole living memorial of their labors. From the end of the lane, the summit of the hill is in plain sight ahead, and a little to the right, to be reached by crossing the fields and woods on its sides, as no regular road leads to its highest point. This once reached, a fine prospect opens to repay one for climbing the hill. The northern and western parts of the city are seen to the east, and the spires from the centre rise from behind the hill. The sheet of water to the north is North Pond, that immediately below is Salisbury's Pond, and away to the northwest Wachusett rises in the distance, and perhaps on a clear day Monadnock too may be seen farther to the north.

Our correspondents have suggested to us, among pleasant routes which may perhaps be too fatiguing for most

pedestrians, and too little travelled for easy driving through, two or three *horseback rides* through sequestered lanes. Such are

To Millstone Hill. For a short horseback ride we could recommend that over Mill stone hill, as by far the finest any where to be had round Worcester. The road is rather difficult to follow, but its beauties will amply repay any trouble in finding it. We take Belmont street from Lincoln square, and mounting the hill, pass by Bell Pond. Just opposite its eastern extremity a road branches off on the left hand into the woods. [See map.] This we follow. It is merely a rough cart road leading to the quarries, which presently we arrive at;—where either by inquiry or by due investigation we find a path leading around their upper edge, between them and the woods. From this there is a very fine prospect, beautifully varied by the contrast of the nearer and more distant portions of the landscape. The water to the northwest is North Pond, and still farther off Wachusett and Monadnock mountains are plainly to be seen. Just behind the main quarry the road turns a right angle, and strikes to the east for a short distance. This we shall follow, keeping to the main road, which, however, even at that, is a mere cart path through the woods. Having turned corners without number, at the next fork take the right, and after this the way is plain enough by keeping to the main track; and at about a mile from the quarry we shall come out upon a clearing partly overgrown with brush wood, lying on the right hand. From this place is the most lovely view to be had any-

where around Worcester, or we should not lead the traveller through such a tortuous path to find it. Below him lies Quinsigamond Pond, over which the eye sweeps for a distance of several miles. The floating bridge is in plain sight. At the lower extremity the narrow valley widens and the lake is here dotted with wooded islets. Beyond the pond rises a ridge of hills whose northern extremity is capped by Shrewsbury village, whose spires rise in relief against the sky. Farther to the south, by the floating bridge, the turnpike mounts the hills, and there is the solitary spire of South Shrewsbury. Still farther to the southeast on the western slope of the ridge, are Grafton and Hopkinton. The lower end of the pond is surrounded by a range of hills forming a vast ampitheatre. The latter part of the afternoon is the pleasantest time for this trip. And now, having shown the way to the loveliest view in Worcester, we leave the traveller to return by the way he came, or, should he prefer variety, to pick his way through woods and pastures to the poor house, on Lincoln Street, thence by Plantation, Belmont, and Pine streets home.

Another pleasant horse-back ride of an hour or two, is to be had by the following route. Take Lincoln street to Green's lane, then follow the lane up over the hill. After passing through the woods, the road runs along on the edge of the hill, giving a fine view of the hills to the northwest of Worcester, above all of which Asnybumskit rises pre-eminent almost due west. Following the lane which again turns to the right, the horseman will come in sight

of Millstone Hill and the quarries, from which he is separated by the valley of Bear brook. Still keeping to the road down the hill till it turns again to the left, he will cross the brook. If on foot, one way follows the stream down to the Hermitage of which we have already spoken, and which is but a few rods distant, or, following a path which is easily to be seen opening out of the woods, he will ascend Millstone Hill to the neighborhood of the quarry. Here at the first fork the right will lead him down the hill again into Belmont street, or the left will lead in a very short distance to the regular quarry road, in sight of the quarry. Here again the right will bring him into Belmont street, near Bell Pond—but when so near, he should by all means take a survey of the quarries, and mounting to their upper edge, will have the fine view from that spot of which we have already spoken. Should he so do, he can easily retrace his steps, and return by the route already mentioned.

"The Boulevards." It is not impossible, in a single excursion, to combine several of the different hill-top views of the village and the scenery behind it, which we have thus described. The suggestion was repeatedly made a few years since, that a fine public avenue might be laid out on the sides of the hills around the town, which should, at once, open beautiful situations for buildings, give regularity to the plan of the exterior of the city, and make a public promenade or mall, of continually increasing beauty. It is not, perhaps, too late for such a plan to be adopted.

Many of the cities of Europe are surrounded thus, by fine ranges of trees, shading a beautiful walk or drive. These are, in most instances, the relics of old fortifications which encircled those towns. In Paris, the celebrated *Boulevards* mark the line of one of the old walls of the city, though long since hemmed in by its progress.

It is, indeed, to be regretted, if, because Worcester needs now no "training field," and never needed any fortifications, she should have no public grounds or walks. And, perhaps, as a large central park is now impossible, a fine mall surrounding the town, open to a liberal width, and shaded with trees, with the buildings on its inner side so arranged that the views should not be interrupted,— may yet be accepted as an agreeable substitute.

Such a mall or avenue would be nearly oval,—surrounding the whole of the thickly settled parts of the town, and looking down on them from the sides of the hills,—the two foci of its ellipse being Lincoln square and the junction of the Main street with Southbridge street.

An adventurous footman, who will take a walk of four or five miles, may follow nearly the course marked out for it, if he will obey the following directions.

Start from the Hospital Grove northward. Follow Wilmot and East streets to Belmont. Here you have the Chandler Hill view described above. Cross to Catherine street and Mt. Vernon Square into Lincoln street. Follow Lincoln street till you have turned the hill top, when a fine northern view opens to you. Without a road, cross westward to the new streets on Fairmount, north of the

Cemetery. Quigley road will then bring you to the immediate neighborhood of the Jo Bill road view described above. After enjoying it, cross the valley and Highland street, in a southerly direction, and keep high enough on Newton's Hill to take its fine eastern prospect. Descending it on its northern side, you may cross Pleasant street to King street, which will lead you upon Goat Hill, now inhabited by Oreads.* [See page 13.] Here is another fine series of views. Cross, then, the Main street, and by Mr. Ripley's avenue pass to Southbridge street. You have, on the way, a fine southern prospect. From Southbridge street the map will direct you to the western side of Union Hill, [see page 37,] and thence crossing Grafton street to the Bloomingdale road, you have the last point of view. Pine meadow now only separates you from your starting point.

A slight study of the map will show how nearly this route may be followed by existing roads. The line we have pointed out should be attempted by a good walker, after the crops are all in, in the fall, or before they are planted in the spring.

We proceed to indicate longer rides, all which are practicable to carriages, as our "horseback rides" are not.

Leicester, Mulberry Grove and Tatnick. Follow Main street to New Worcester. Keep on Leicester street, four miles beyond New Worcester; you are constantly ascending, and a fine series of views opens from the road

* Hinc atque hinc glomerantur Oreades.

on your left and behind you. You pass Cherry Valley, a manufacturing village, mostly devoted to woolen manufactures. About six miles from Worcester you are at the foot of Leicester Hill. The village with its academy, the most noted and oldest literary institution in the county, is before you at the top of the steep ascent. So considerable is the ascent from Worcester to Leicester, that an old proverb says it is seven miles from Worcester to Leicester, but only six miles back again.

Unless you have time to visit the thriving village of Leicester, take your right at the foot of the hill, and a pretty sequestered road will lead you through Mulberry Grove, the seat formerly of a Quaker School of some celebrity, and of a pretty Friends' Meeting House. Coming on higher land, you open on a fine series of distant views,—and still turning to the right, obedient to faithful guide-boards, you strike Bailey street, the old road between Leicester and Worcester. This will lead you by Pleasant street through Tatnick or Tataesset home.

Tatnick was the seat of some Indian settlements, and retains its name.

By a shorter road than the above,—take at Cherry Valley, a road at right angles on your right. It is the Fowler street of our map, and gives a fine series of views as it crosses the high hills of the west of the town.

This cluster of hills, of whose highest point, Asnybumskit, further notice is given on another page, gives to Worcester topographically, its boast of being the heart of the Commonwealth. From the sides of these hills, in

your immediate vicinity on this ride, waters flow into the Connecticut, the French River, the Blackstone and the Merrimack ;—the four principal rivers of Massachusetts.

To explore the South and East parts of the town, you may drive round the greater part of QUINSIGAMOND POND. This is the largest sheet of water in the old "Bay Colony." It is considered to be seven miles in length, and is established therefore as the "Seven Mile Mirror" of the town. It makes the eastern boundary of the township.

For this purpose,—follow Grafton street to Harrington street. Turn into Harrington street, where you will pass the pretty cottage of Hon. Isaac Davis. This street brings you into Shrewsbury. Keep every left hand turning. About five miles from Grafton street, you come upon the old Boston turnpike. Turn to the left upon this,—and you will rapidly descend to the pond, which you cross on the floating bridge. This brings you to the Belmont street of our map, and you may enter the village at your pleasure.

PROSPECT HILL, Oxford. A fine point of view is gained, worthy the pretty ride it requires, by following Southbridge street by Auburn (formerly Ward) to Prospect Hill, in Oxford, eight miles on the direct road from Worcester. You must leave your carriage to ascend the hill on your right. It is in parts quite precipitous, in fact. It commands an unequalled view of the country northward, and of the city of Worcester, nestled in its valley,—which is most open in this direction.

Auburn is not

"The loveliest village of the plain,"

but a pretty village on a hill. It was formerly called Ward, in honor of General Ward, the first commander of the Continental Army. General Ward's claims to command were waived by the men of New England in Congress, in favor of George Washington's. It is no dishonor to any man to be ranked second to Washington; and Gen. Ward was named first in the list of officers under his command.

It is to be regretted that his name is lost from a town in the immediate neighborhood of his birthplace, which was Shrewsbury. The change was made, however, from no want of respect to him, it is said; but because letters meant for Ward were sometimes sent to the more flourishing town of *Ware*.

Another route, specially to be followed when the great laurel, kalmia latifolia, is in bloom, follows along Granite street by the South Ledge Quarries, to Millbury street, and by that street home. These quarries, of a white felspaltric granite, frequently used in building here, are surrounded by wild woodland.

On the public roads, easily travelled, and easily found, the stranger will find an endless variety of fine prospects, or woodland scenery.

Some of the best views in the north of Worcester are gained by passing around North Pond, through Ararat street. The whole route may be seen upon the map.

Ride to Shrewsbury. One of the pleasantest and most varied rides in the neighborhood of Worcester is the

THE NEWBERRY LIBRARY

ride to Shrewsbury and back, going by way of Oak Hill and the floating bridge, and returning by the old Boston road ; in all, about eleven miles. Starting from the City Hall, we pass through Front street, turning to the right in Washington square, through Grafton street, to the entrance of the Bloomingdale road. Here we ascend Oak Hill, and, passing along this road, obtain a fair view of the southern portion of the city and the surrounding hills. Thence turning to the left by Plantation street, we cross the railroad on a lofty stone arch ; and from this point are distinctly seen Shrewsbury, to the northeast, and Grafton, to the southeast, on the ridge, east of the valley of the pond. Turning to the right soon after, we follow Belmont street to the bridge, and here a scene awaits us which we cannot but stop and admire. The pond stretches for miles on either side of us, like a great river, its steep banks thickly wooded throughout almost their whole extent. Crossing the pond, we take the second left, where the guideboard awaits us to point out the road to Shrewsbury, and mounting the long hill, charmed at almost every step by some new feature in the wide prospect, we reach the town. Here, taking the left by direction of guideboard, we commence our return. On the brow of the hill just out of the village is one of the finest views to be had in the vicinity of Worcester. A broad valley, stretching away to the north, suddenly bursts upon us, closed, apparently, at its upper extremity, by Wachusett. On a clear day, Monadnock may be seen to the east of Wachusett, like a dim yet sharply defined cloud,

easily to be distinguished by its length and its precipitous descent on the west. Other mountains of New Hampshire are sometimes plainly seen from this spot. Descending the hill and keeping to the main road, we again cross the pond, this time near its upper extremity. Continuing our course we enter the city by Lincoln street, and from the brow of the hill, just before we enter it, it shows to better advantage than from any of the other great avenues leading to it.

A SHORT DRIVE, interesting to the mineralogist, is the Four Mile Square, so called. Pass through Lincoln street, to Burncoat street, to Millbrook Street, to West Boylston street, to Grove street, which will bring you home,—the distance passed being about four miles. Grove street passes the entrance to the Cemetery. [See p. 27.]

On your way you may explore the "Old Silver Mine," so called, because wrought for silver by the mistaken enterprise of a century ago.

In 1754, a vein of metal which was supposed to be silver, was discovered near the head of the valley, about a mile north of the town. A company for exploring the spot was formed by some of the most substantial inhabitants. Furnaces and smelting houses were erected, and a cunning German employed as Superintendent. Under his direction, a shaft was sunk 80 feet perpendicularly, and a horizontal gallery extended about as far through the rock, which was to be intersected by another shaft, commenced about six rods north of the first opening. Among the masses, which within a few years laid around

the scene of operation, were specimens of the ores containing a minute portion of silver, specks of copper and lead, much iron, and an extraordinary quantity of arsenic. When struck against steel, a profusion of vivid sparks are thrown out, and the strong and peculiarly disagreeable odor of the latter mineral emitted. On the application of heat, this perfume increases to an overpowering extent. The company expended great sums in blasting the rock, raising its fragments, and erecting buildings and machinery. While the pile of stones increased, the money of the partners diminished. The furnaces in full blast, produced nothing but suffocating vapors, curling over the flames in those beautiful coronets of smoke which still attend the attempt to melt the ore. The shrewd foreigner, in whose promises the associates seem to have placed that confidence which honest men often repose on the declarations of knaves, became satisfied that the crisis was approaching when it would be ascertained that the funds were exhausted, and that stone and iron could not be transmuted to gold. Some papers which exist, indicate, that he pretended to knowledge in the occult sciences as well as skill in the art of deception. However this may be, he assured the company, that the great enemy of man had been busy in defeating their exertions, making his presence redolent in the perfumes of sulphur and arsenic. He obtained the sum of $100 and made a journey to Philadelphia, to consult with a person experienced in mines and their daemons, for the purpose or exorcising the unsavory spirit of the crucible. He departed with a barrel

full of the productions of the mine, but never returned to state the results of his conference. The proprietors abandoned the work, when they were waked by the reality of the loss from the dream of fortune, and afterwards destroyed the records of their credulity.

The spot is easily found. Follow the Nashua Railroad north, on foot, from its crossing of Mill brook street, till you pass the two mile post. The deserted shaft is about twenty rods to the northeast of this spot, It is readily found, as a pile of slate stones still lie where they were thrown out by the miners, on a slight eminence in the meadow. Good specimens of sulphuret of Lead, arsenical sulphuret of Iron and carbonate of Iron may be found here.

A pretty route for a short drive or ride takes you to New Worcester by Main street. Take the right after crossing Tatnick or Kettle Brook, and pass through Mill street to Tatnick, whence the route home either through Pleasant street, or Flagg and Salisbury streets, opens a series of pretty views. Or you may leave Leicester street just beyond the Worcester Academy [see p. 12], pass through May street, and return as above.

To Millbury and back. Millbury, the first considerable village on Blackstone River, is the largest manufacturing place in the neighborhood of Worcester. The Providence Railroad from Worcester passes through the village. There are three other roads between the two towns,—so that the drive to Millbury and back, may be

varied between going and returning. Green street and Millbury street give the shortest and best road. Drive out from Worcester by this road. The bridge which you pass at the end of Green Street crosses the lower end of the basin of the Old Blackstone Canal. This work, begun and carried on with great energy, is now abandoned, between Worcester and the State line. It connected Worcester with Providence. You will observe traces of its banks, in several places between Worcester and Millbury;—the lock at the outlet of the Basin is still complete. It was a canal of the smallest class, and found very unprofitable to its projectors. But the water-power created upon Blackstone River, by the dams built for it, has built up a series of manufacturing towns, of great wealth and prosperity.

"The Red Mills," (one of which is white,) at the end of Green Street, are the first factories which you will notice on this road. They are owned by Messrs. Wm. B. Fox and Son. Satinets are manufactured here,—this being one of the earliest places where that manufacture was attempted.

About a mile lower down, where the road bends to the left,—you observe the junction of the two streams, Mill Brook and Kettle Brook, which form the Blackstone River. This river receives its name from the Rev. John Blackstone, well known as the first settler of Boston. He was driven from England, he said, by the Lords Bishop,—and afterwards from Boston, because he disliked the Lords Brethren. He took up his last residence on

the banks of this stream in Pawtucket,—where *Study Hill* still preserves his memory. He lived there forty years, and died in 1675.

The road follows Blackstone River to Quinsigamond Village, where are extensive Iron Rolling Mills. The curiosity of the process is such as to reward examination. Here, if he have any taste for such matters, the visitor cannot fail to be interested in the wire-drawing operations of the sons of Vulcan, who day and night ply their arduous toils. At night, especially, the fiery serpents of heated wire, coiling round upon the floor of the building, present a remarkable spectacle. The whole process of wire-making may be seen in a brief space of time, The iron, passing to the furnace in the shape of immense "pigs," or in bundles of "scraps," is changed from roller to roller, where by the ponderous machinery it is speedily reduced to the various sizes of wire. Wire of the best class, such as is used in telegraph lines, is manufactured here largely. The gentlemanly attention of the proprietor and his assistants, add greatly to the interest of the visit.

Millbury is four or five miles farther. The water power is excellent,—and the beauty of the rocky falls not wholly destroyed by the dams and buildings. The visiter may return by Granite street,—a hard road, but a picturesque one,—and examine the South Ledge, or taking the right hand road at the old tavern, pass over Millbury Avenue,—which will afford him a fine view of Dorety Pond with its floating island; and upon the height of land

between Worcester and Millbury, a beautiful panoramic view of the surrounding country may be seen without leaving the carriage.

A longer ride will lead through Millbury to Wilkinsonville, a pretty village on the Blackstone in Sutton, and along the banks of the river through other smaller manufacturing villages to Grafton Centre,—thence on the excellent county road to New England Village, where are located extensive cotton mills, and over Grafton street to Worcester. There is a shorter route from Millbury to Grafton, and a still shorter one to New England Village. On the return route over Grafton street, fine views are obtained of "Lake Quinsigamond."

West Boylston, about seven miles from Worcester, by the street which bears its name,—is a thriving manufacturing town. It is situated in a beautiful valley. Return through "Old Boylston," Boylston street, and Lincoln street, and you will enjoy a fine series of views.

The oldest Ride in Worcester. Plantation street or Love Lane. The first settlers from Boston to Connecticut valley, passed South of this town, by the *Nipmuck Road*, through Grafton. Not long before 1674, "the country road" was laid out, which led more directly from Marlborough to Springfield. It entered Worcester, at the North of Quinsigamond Pond,—and is the Lincoln street of our map from that point, for a few rods, as far as *Plantation street*. Here however it turned west of the present Lincoln street,—it passed west of the present

Main street—and excepting a part of the Jo Bill Road, spoken of above, [p. 41] is wholly discontinued now, between the Town's Poor-farm and New Worcester. It was simply a "wood road" practicable for pedestrians and horsemen only. By this way, years before the permanent settlement of Worcester, parties passed to and fro from the sea-shore to the valley of the Connecticut, or the post at Brookfield. Here may be placed the ninth Canto of Southey's Oliver Newman where he describes that very "journey through the Forest."

"They are on their way, and they have entered now,
The forest that from earliest time hath stood
By human culture unsubdued."

The name "*Plantation* street" is given in memory of the first highway—which took the place of this "Country Road" in those early days of the "plantation;"—soon after the arrival of Jonas Rice, the first settler in 1713.

Pass out through Grafton street to Plantation street. Formerly it crossed what is now a cultivated meadow at your right and came into the Cambridge street of our map. Turn into it at the left, the ascent opens a view of the village. Cross the turnpike and you come into that part of it known as *Love Lane*.

Love Lane will bring you to the original country road; —at the very spot (if you please to think such the origin of its name), of the journey spoken of above, where

"First the Virgin thought
How large a dower of love and faithfulness
Her gentle spirit could have brought

A kindred heart to bless.
Herself then first she understood,
With what capacities endued;
Then first by undeserved respect
Roused to a consciousnsss of self respect
Felt she was not more willing to be won
Than worthy to be wooed."

On the right of Love Lane or Plantation street is Wigwam Hill, a distinctly marked hill on the borders of the Pond. It was formerly a home of Indians, and hence received its name. But the present interest of Love Lane is of a more practical kind.

Look to the west as you ride, and you will see the open shaft of the *Anthracite Coal Mine*. This anthracite, is, strictly speaking, the only *Anthracite* yet found in America. It is, that is, nearer the European coal which first received that name, than the coal of Pennsylvania or Rhode Island. The mine is not worked for Coal,—but some black lead is taken from it, for making paint, and *British Lustre* for stoves.

Returning by Lincoln street, you pass on the right a yellow building shaded by elms. This is the town's poor house.

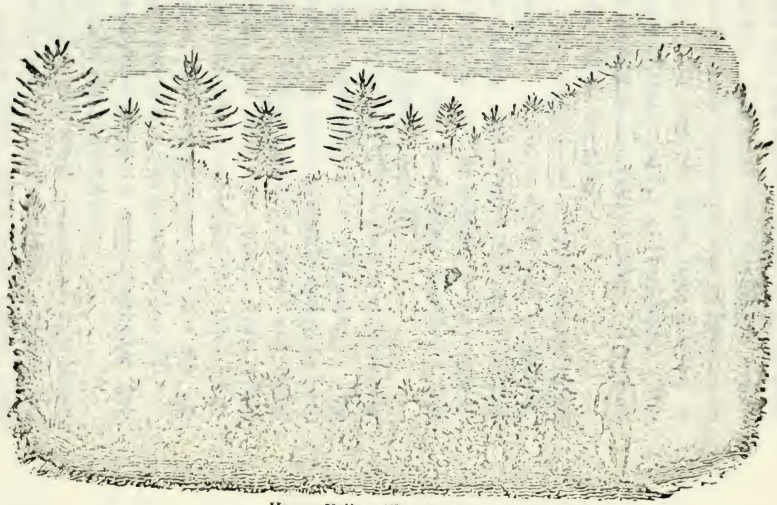
Lincoln street, from the poor house into town was the "Lancaster way" of the plantation, ending in those days, where the "Central Exchange" [See p. 29] now stands. This was not then, as now, Bank and Post Office, but Deacon "Daniel Heywood's Garrison House."

Plantation street and the Lancaster way were the two streets of the infant town.

Trusting that the stranger may sometimes use our guide in longer excursions in the County;—we add to these hints directions for reaching Happy Valley, Asnybumskit, Purgatory and Wachusett.

Happy Valley. For those wishing rather a long drive, Happy Valley should by all means be selected. It is the name given to a little valley surrounded by hills which until within a year or two were beautifully wooded. The drive to Happy Valley is delightful. Passing down Lincoln and Burncoat streets, at the distance of four miles we cross the Nashua Railroad. Three miles beyond this crossing, we leave the main road and follow the trail at our right hand. After re-crossing the railroad, a few rods from the turning, at a little distance we leave the road and take a wood path at our left hand. A drive of half a mile brings us to the Valley. To say nothing of the valley, the drive itself will well repay any one for an afternoon. Our first "turn-off" from the main road is about seven miles from Worcester, and half a mile from West Boylston. The valley is about eight miles from Worcester.

Asnybumskit. This is the name given to the highest point of land near Worcester, except Wachusett. Passing down Pleasant street on the road to Tatnick, continue on the main Paxton road until within half a mile of Paxton village. On the right hand we see a small red house near "Arnold's mill," so called. Taking a cart path which turns off from the main road by this house, we continue through the fields for half a mile, when we arrive at



Happy Valley, West Boylston.

a farm house on an elevated site. Here we leave our carriage. A walk of a few minutes brings us to the summit of Asnybumskit. The view from this hill is extensive, but the beauty of the landscape near at hand is its greatest attraction. By some the view from this hill is considered superior in some respects to Wachusett. The distance from Worcester is about seven miles. The summit is 1407.42 feet above the tide.

Purgatory. This paradise is in Sutton, about twelve miles from Worcester. Take the direct road to Sutton, pass through the village, and inquire the way. For a description of Purgatory, and its charms, as they appeared sixty years ago, we copy from Peter Whitney's Old History of Worcester County, page 97.

"In the southeasterly part of the town is a cavern in the earth or rocks, commonly called *Purgatory*. The rocks on each side of the chasm evidently appear to have been rent asunder. People may enter some rods under the ground or rocks, and there are cracks down which they drop pebbles, and after these strike the sides alternately several times, they are heard to fall into the water; and a brook issues out at the bottom of the hill.

"It may be acceptable to give a more particular description of this place, called Purgatory.

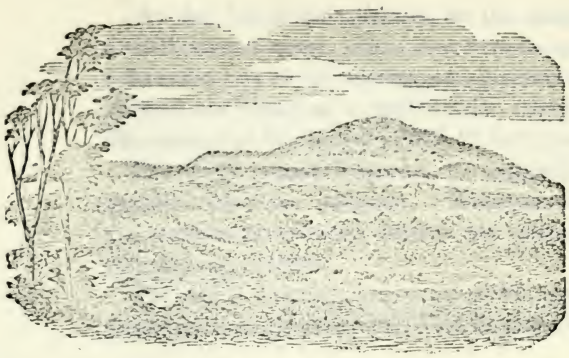
"It is the side of a hill, which consists of vast ledges of rocks: where the natural descent begins, a chasm has been formed of perhaps thirty, and in some places, forty feet in width, in these ledges, by some violent concussion, which left this body of stones of all shapes and sizes, to

fall in: above, it is all open to the heavens; and the ledges, on either side, are from five to ten, and so on to twenty, and even forty feet in height. This chasm is, perhaps, near eighty rods in length; and the descent is gradual, and not very difficult. Where the greatest depth is, water issues from crevices in the rocks, and hangs in icicles, and even in solid bodies of ice, not only in May, as I have seen, but in June, although the descent is to the south. Some small caverns were formed by the falling of these rocks, through which persons have descended, and come out several rods below. This is a most stupendous place, and fills the mind of the beholder with most exalted ideas of the infinite power of the great Creator of all things, "who removeth the mountains, and they know not; who shaketh the earth of its place, and the pillars thereof tremble." After all, no description given of this place, by another, will enable persons to form just and adequate conceptions of it."

A returned Californian assures us that the place is best described by calling it a canon: and that it gives a distinct idea of the canons of the west of America.

This place is much visited in summer, by strangers and by residents. For those wishing to pass a day pleasantly, we know of no place better than Purgatory.

Wachusett. This mountain, situated in Princeton, about sixteen miles from Worcester, attracts a great many during the summer season, and a stranger having a leisure day is recommended to go to Princeton. About two miles from the mountain we stop at the hotel kept by



Distant View of Wachusett.

John Brooks, Esq., which is an excellent house. It is advisable to start from Worcester before breakfast. After breakfast we can push on for the mountain, the ascent of which from the road requires about thirty minutes.

The prospect from this mountain of a clear summer's day is delightful.

On the one hand, Boston harbor is visible, distant about fifty eight miles. On the other, the Monadnock is seen raising its bald and broken summit to the clouds, while the distant Hoosack and Green mountains fade away in the distance, and mingle with the blue horizon. The numerous and beautiful villages scattered intermediately in all directions, give a charm to the scene, hardly surpassed by the far-famed Holyoke. Somewhat of the artificial richness of that prospect is wanting here, yet this is amply compensated for by the greater extent of view.

At the foot of the mountain, on the easterly side, is a small sheet of water, which, seen from the summit as it reflects the rays of the morning sun, presents a scene, for richness and beauty on a limited scale, rarely surpassed. The summit of Wachusett is 2018.12 feet above the tide.

The views around Princeton are delightful,—one especially, round the mountain. Mountain, forest, field, and meadow succeed each other in the picture, in many and pleasing varieties.

The road to Princeton passes out of Worcester, by the Cemetery through Grove and West Boylston streets.

GROWTH OF WORCESTER.

Years.	Population.	Deaths.	Polls.	Valuation.	Tax.
1763	1,478				
1776	1,925	76			
1790	2,095	22	486		
1800	2,411		530	296,542	3,017
1810	2,577	39	518	1,476,383	3,213
1820	2,962	39	626	2,015,750	4,715
1825	3,650	43	881	2,437,550	6,215
1830	4,172	68	1018	2,747,800	8,073
1835	6,624	105	1570	3,667,250	15,986
1840	7,497	159	1799	4,288,950	21,194
1845	11,556	227	3150	6,004,050	34,121
1850	17,000		4783	11,082,501	83,645

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